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The Nebraska Numismatic Association

Journal

The Official Publication of the Nebraska Numismatic Association

Volume 60 January / February / March 2015 Issue 1

UNITED STATES MINT

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Homestead National Monument of America Quarter Launch & Coin Exchange

Commemorating the release of the 2015 Homestead National Monument of America quarter, the 26th coin to be released in the United States Mint America the Beautiful Quarters® Program

Beatrice High School - Beatrice, NE
February 10, 2015 • 10 a.m. (CST)

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one-roll ($10) minimum • 10-roll ($100) maximum

Open house & coin exchange • 1-4 p.m.
Homestead National Monument of America Education Center

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"My 2 Cents"

Mitch Ernst
President / Editor

"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home."
—Edith Sitwell

When I saw the above quote, I thought I could never find a another quote more appropriate for this issue of The Journal. As you will see, this issue is devoted to home, or more accurately, homesteading, and in particular, Homestead National Monument of America in Beatrice, NE. As you may have heard, there is going to be a BIG event at the Monument, this upcoming February. The US Mint will be releasing it's Homestead National Monument of America quarter on February 10th. So in honor of that event, this issue of The Journal, is all about Homestead.

There is a flier announcing the launch and coin exchange Feb. 10th on page 4. The evening before the launch, there is a Coin Forum, where representatives from the US Mint will discuss what went into the design and making of the Homestead quarter. Also, NNA Secretary/Treasurer John Veach is doing an exhibit the 1967 Nebr. Centennial medal because the Freeman cabin was part of the design. He will be including some rare pieces so you don't want to miss the opportunity to see it at the Coin Forum.

Also, through out this issue of The Journal, there are articles about the creation of Homestead National Monument, What was the Homestead Act and the First Homesteader, Daniel Freeman. I have also included Directions to Homestead National Monument so it will be easier to set your GPS or mapquest® it.

This is a wonderful opportunity for numismatists of the state to gather together and not only celebrate our "new" quarter, but also this unique piece of American history that makes it's home here in Nebraska,

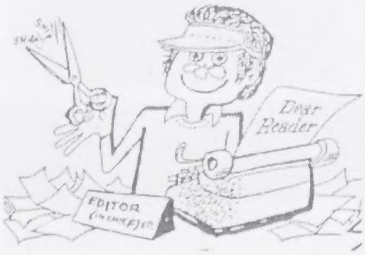
Homestead National Monument. I hope you can and will make the effort to take advantage of this event by participating in the Coin Forum and/or the Launch Ceremony. I realize a Monday night and Tuesday morning are not the ideal times for working people to get away, but if you can, I'm sure you will be glad you did.

Besides the Homestead quarter launch we have some other numismatic events of interest in the upcoming months. Grand Island will be having it's annual show in a few weeks. A flier for that show can be found on page 24. Also, Nebraska City will be holding it's annual show on February 8th. You don't want to miss the NE City show, if for no other reason than for the food! I can taste the homemade pie already... And rounding out the upcoming show calendar is the Lincoln Coin Club Annual Show on March 14th. Dave Larson is the bourse chairman again at LCC and has been working hard to make this year's show a great success.

Last but not least, the NNA has chosen a location and date for it's 2015 Convention. It will be held June 6th and 7th in South Sioux City, NE. I want to thank John and Lori Jackson for all their hard work in getting this set up. A flier for that event can be found on page 16. As you will see, it promises to be a fun weekend. Make plans to attend now!

There are also some events that have taken place that I would like to recognize as well. Omaha Coin Club and Fremont Coin Club held holiday parties in December and supplied pictures of their events. Those reports can be found on pages thirty and thirty one.

So, as always, enjoy this great hobby of ours, and enjoy a great New Year!



-Mitch

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25 cents at a time

By Scott Koperski/ editor Beatrice Daily Sun news
November 29, 2014 © All Rights Reserved.

What began as a vision is now a 25-cent reality.

Newly-struck 2015 Homestead National Monument of America quarters from the America the Beautiful Quarters Program await packaging in the United States Mint at Philadelphia Nov. 17.

At a rate of 30 million per day, quarters paying homage to the Homestead National Monument of America are currently being minted.

Stamped with a cabin, water pump and two ears of corn, the Homestead quarter will be the first released next year in the ongoing "America the Beautiful" quarter series.

The Homestead Act of 1862, which distributed more than 270 million acres in 160-acre increments, is a worthy selection for the National Park quarter series, according to Park Superintendent Mark Engler.

"I think that it's going to be beautiful and I can't wait for the Homestead to be in people's pockets throughout the United States," Engler said. "I think that this is not only a very positive thing for the Homestead, but also a positive thing for Beatrice and this whole end of our state. I think that it's a great source of community pride."

The Homestead Act was in effect for 123 years, during which four million claims were made spanning 30 states.

In August, the chosen of 12 potential Homestead quarter designs was made official after being examined by a selection committee, the Commission of Fine Arts and the Secretary of the Treasury for final approval.

Artistic Infusion Program (AIP) master designer Ron Sanders, of Florida, created the selected design.

Sanders was one of two designers for the U.S. Mint who visited the Homestead last year to draw inspiration for his quarter design.

Michael Smith with the U.S. Mint said approximately 300 million Homestead Quarters will be minted.

That's 300 million pocket-sized advertisements Gage County Tourism Director Angie Bruna hopes will draw additional tourists to the area.

"It is very exciting to be chosen as one of only 56 sites in the series," she said. "We're hoping people who see that research the Homestead and maybe even come visit us.

"Being one of only five National Park sites in state, we're very lucky. To have that in our County brings in numerous extra visitors we wouldn't see otherwise. Those people spending their outside dollars in our stores and gas stations are so vital to local economy."

Engler said a public event celebrating the quarter's release will be held in February.

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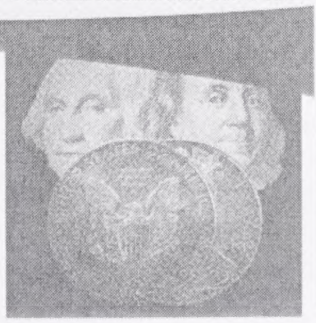


Creation of Homestead National Monument of America

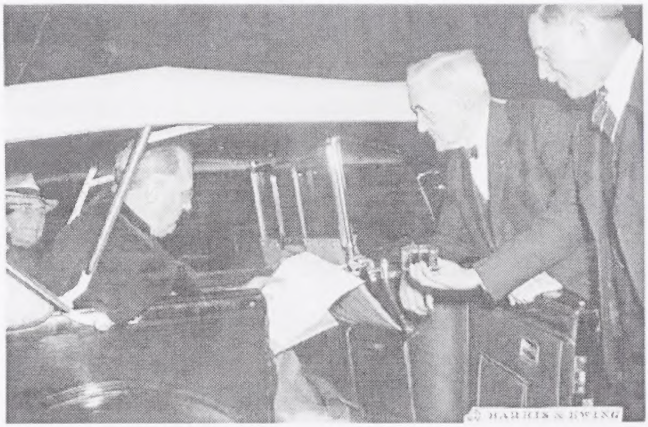


Photo of President Franklin D. Roosevelt signing Public Law No. 480, 74th Congress creating Homestead National Monument of America while Nebraska Senator Norris and Nebraska Representative Luckey look on. HNM Image

With one stroke of the pen on March 19, 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created a new national park on the site of the Daniel Freeman homestead. The following words were included in the legislation: "...lay out said land in a suitable and enduring manner so that the same may be maintained as an appropriate monument to retain for posterity a proper memorial emblematical of the hardships and the pioneer life through which the early settlers passed in the settlement, cultivation and civilization of the Great West."

Extensive work went on behind the scenes for nearly 30 years to see that this site would be created. As early as 1909, concerned citizens of Nebraska had urged Congress to create a national park site on the Freeman property, the location of one of the very first land parcels claimed under the Homestead Act on January 1,

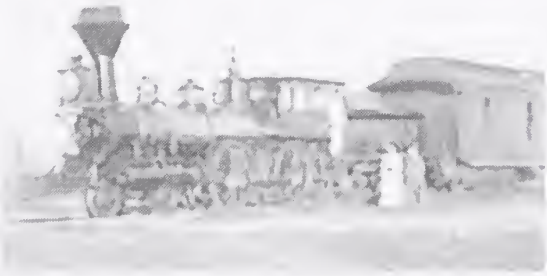
J D Troyer Homestead Sod House
S Butcher Collection, HNM Image

1863. However, it wasn't until 1925 that Senator George W. Norris, a powerful congressional leader from Nebraska, joined the fight to see the Freeman land preserved as a national park.

In 1934, the Homestead National Park Association was formed by several prominent Beatrice citizens. It was at this point that the movement to create the park began to solidify. Senator Norris had a proposal for the creation of the national park site before the U.S. House of Representatives by August, 1935. The Homestead National Monument Act was passed on March 16, 1936, becoming Public Law 480, 74th Congress. The newly-created Homestead National Monument of America was placed under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, an agency of the Department of the Interior. The National Park Service continues to operate and administer the park today as a lasting memorial to all the settlers who built the American West.

In 1971, additional legislation was passed to add the Freeman School, an original one-room prairie schoolhouse, to Homestead National Monument of America. The Freeman School provides visitors an excellent opportunity to see what it was like to be a young student on the Nebraska prairie a century ago.

For more information visit: http://www.nps.gov/home/index.htm



Steam Engine of Passenger Train

HNM Image

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Mitch Ernst / Editor

Mint settles on design honoring Homestead

-Joseph Morton World-Herald Bureau
-Originally appeared in edited form in the **Omaha World Herald 2014** ©

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Mint released the final design for Nebraska's new quarter, which honor's Homestead National Monument.

The Treasury secretary signed off on a civilian advisory committee's recommended approach - a wood cabin and water pump, bracketed by ears of corn.

It's intended to represent "the three fundamentals of survival common to all homesteaders: food, shelter and water." according to the Mint.

Homestead Superintendent Mark Engller had pushed unsuccessfully for the inclusion of the "Free Land" on the coin.

That slogan was used to promote the transformative policy of handling out 160 acres for free to anyone willing to give the blood, sweat and tears required to work the land and expand the country westward.

Engler praised the final design as effective and beautiful, saying he was glad "Free Land" was at least part of the discussion. He noted that the Homestead Act's history stretched over 123 years, from

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the administration of President Abraham Lincoln to that of Ronald Reagan.

"It's a law that was really unique and revolutionary for its time from the standpoint of how it was so inviting to so many people and how it really changed our state, our nation and our world in so many ways," he said, "So to put that story on something as small as a quarter is really challenging."

The Mint is issuing five quarters per year in the series titled America the Beautiful. Each quarter represents a national park in a different state or territory.

Engler said he hopes the coin sparks greater interest in the homesteading story and in the monument located outside Beatrice. He's working with the Mint on a launch party for early next year. [Editors note: The NNA has contacted Mr. Engler and has offered any assistance to him in promoting the Launch Party. Mr. Engler has graciously accepted the offer and looks forward to working with the NNA]

"We're very honored to represent the state of Nebraska," Engler said. "Knowing that 45 percent of our state was settled through the Homestead Act, I think it's very fitting and I think it's an honor."

Engler said he figures he'll pick up at least a roll for himself once the quarters are available for purchase.

The release date has been set for February 10th, 2015. See page 4 for details

If you have a letter for the editor, send it to:

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YN's Corner

-Patrick Milliken (NNA 1st V.P.)

Patrick Milliken is still recovering from his health difficulties and wishes to pass along his regrets that he is unable to do a YN Corner for this issue.

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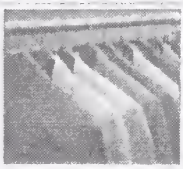

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What was the Homestead Act?

The Homestead Act of 1862 has been called one of the most important pieces of Legislation in the history of the United States. Signed into law in 1862 by Abraham Lincoln after the secession of southern states, this Act turned over vast amounts of the public domain to private citizens. 270 millions acres or 10% of the area of the United States was claimed and settled under this act.

A homesteader had only to be the head of a household or at least 21 years of age to claim a 160 acre parcel of land. Settlers from all walks of life including newly arrived immigrants, farmers without land of their own from the East, single women and former slaves came to meet the challenge of "proving up" and keeping this "free land". Each homesteader had to live on the land, build a home, make improvements and farm for 5 years before they were eligible to "prove up". A total filing fee of $18 was the only money required, but sacrifice and hard work exacted a different price from the hopeful settlers.

The Filing Process

People interested in Homesteading first had to file their intentions at the nearest Land Office. A brief check for previous ownership claims was made for the plot of land in question, usually described by its survey coordinates. The prospective homesteader paid a filing fee of $10 to claim the land temporarily, as well as a $2 commission to the land agent.

(Continued on page 19)

(Continued from page 18)

With application and receipt in hand, the homesteader then returned to the land to begin the process of building a home and farming the land, both requirements for "proving" up at the end of five years. When all requirements had been completed and the homesteader was ready the take legal possession, the homesteader found two neighbors or friends willing to vouch for the truth of his or her statements about the land's improvements and sign the "proof" document.

After successful completion of this final form and payment of a $6 fee, the homesteader received the patent for the land, signed with the name of the current President of the United States. This paper was often proudly displayed on a cabin wall and represented the culmination of hard work and determination.

The Homestead Act remained in effect until it was repealed in 1976, with provisions for homesteading in Alaska until 1986. Alaska was one of the last places in the country where homesteading remained a viable option into the latter part of the 1900s. The Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 substantially decreased the amount of land available to homesteaders in the West. Because much of the prime land had been homesteaded decades earlier, successful Homestead claims dropped sharply after this time.

The Homestead Act of 1862 is recognized as one of the most revolutionary concepts for distributing public land in American history. Repercussions of this monumental piece of legislation can be detected throughout America today, decades after the cry of "Free Land!" has faded away.
On March 16, 1936 Congress passed Public Law 480 of the 74th Congress created a new unit in the National Park System on the site of the Daniel Freeman homestead. On March 19, 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 19)

the law and Homestead National Monument of America "as an appropriate monument to retain for posterity a proper memorial emblematical of the hardships and the pioneer life through which the early settlers passed in the settlement, cultivation and civilization of the Great West."

Collage of Daniel Freeman, Abraham Lincoln, and the Freeman Family
HNM Image

For more information visit: http://www.nps.gov/home/index.htm

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The First Homesteader

Daniel Freeman
Farmer, Soldier, Doctor, Coroner, Sheriff,
Homesteader (First Homestead in the United States of America)
1826-1908
Beatrice, Nebraska

Daniel Freeman - 1906
NPS Image

One of the first people to file a claim under the Homestead Act of 1862 was Daniel Freeman. The site of his claim is now the site of Homestead National Monument of America. This site commemorates the lives and accomplishments of all pioneers and the changes brought about by the Homestead Act. Legend has it that Daniel Freeman filed his claim 10 minutes after midnight at the Land Office in Brownville, NE on January 1, 1863, the first day the Homestead Act went into effect.

Mr. Freeman came from Illinois to Nebraska alone and began corresponding with Agnes Suiter, a young woman from LeClaire, Iowa. Agnes had been engaged to Daniel's brother James, who died in the Civil War. Daniel proposed marriage through the mail, and in 1865, brought his new bride back to his homestead claim. There, they had 8 children over the years. As the children grew, some married and built homes on the old homestead.

During the tenure of the Freeman family, a variety of structures were built upon the land. A small log cabin was built in the north

forty of the claim, as well as traditional farming outbuildings. This cabin was often photographed and later depicted in engravings as the First Homestead Cabin. In later years, the family was financially secure enough to build a two-story brick house near the woodland edge of the claim. A barn and other outbuildings were built nearby. Other features of the homestead included an Osage Orange hedgerow, planted and pruned to keep animals out of productive fields. Remains of this hedgerow still exist on the land today. The Freeman family and tenant farmers planted corn, wheat, and oats and orchards of apple and peach trees.

The brick house burned in 1916, 8 years after Daniel Freeman's death in 1908. It was replaced with a small wood frame house near that site for Daniel and Agnes' daughter Agnes Freeman Quackenbush. A similar house was built for Agnes next to the old freight road near the center of the claim. She often cared for grandchildren there, and lived in the home nearly until her death in 1931. None of the Freeman homes exist on the site today.

One structure well known and used by the Freeman family was the Freeman School, located 1/4 mile west of the homestead claim. It is not known if the school is named for a member of the Freeman family or for Thomas Freeman, a local brickmaker and president of the school board. Daniel and Agnes were both active in the affairs of the school, and Daniel garnered national attention with his protest against bible-based lessons at the school. The children of the Freeman's attended the school, sometimes sharing classroom space with younger nieces and nephews. The Freeman school operated as a place of learning until 1967, and has been restored and is open for visits today.

For more information visit: http://www.nps.gov/home/index.htm

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Headed to Homestead?

Information and Directions

What to put in your GPS

Heritage Center:
Homestead National Monument of America
24405 SW 75th Road
Beatrice, NE 68310

Education Center (use this one for mailing address):
Homestead National Monument of America
8523 West State Hwy 4
Beatrice, NE 68310
Contact Us:

Phone:
402-223-3514

By Car: Homestead National Monument of America is approximately 40 miles south on Interstate 80, a major east-west artery in the United States. Four-lane U.S. 77 connects I-80 with Beatrice, Nebraska. Beatrice is also approximately 70 miles west of Interstate 29, a major north-south artery from Kansas City, Missouri through Council Bluffs, IA, Sioux City, IA, Sioux Falls, SD, and Grand Forks, ND to the Canadian border. U.S. 136 connects I-29 with Beatrice, Nebraska. U.S. 136 has been designated as Heritage Highway, a Nebraska Scenic Byway. The park is 4 miles west of Beatrice on State Highway 4. From the U.S. 77 and U.S. 136 intersection in downtown Beatrice take U.S. 136 approximately 1.2 miles west. Turn right onto Nebraska Highway 4 and follow the signs. After the road has curved west and you have traveled 4 miles, you will enter Homestead National Monument and see signs for the different buildings at the park. First you will pass the Heritage Center on the hill to your left. The Education Center is 3/4 miles further, also on your left. In another 1/4 miles you will reach the Freeman School on your right.

NEBRASKA CITY COIN CLUB

51st ANNUAL SHOW

COIN SHOW

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2015
9:00 A.M. To 4:00 P.M.

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Club Happenings
Omaha Coin Club and Fremont Coin Club host Holiday Parties

Omaha Coin Club Holiday Party 12/19/14

Food, Fun and Fellowship filled the evening for OCC members

Fremont Coin Club Holiday Party 12/2014

Members of FCC enjoyed a lively meeting, a fun auction and donated canned goods to the less fortunate at FCC's annual Holiday Party

FCC Treasurer, Eli Harrah was in charge of the Food Drive.

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Nebraska Numismatic Events
2015 State Coin Club Show Calendar

Grand Island Coin Show
January 17th & 18th 2015
Info: Max Mader 308-381-2311
See flier on page 24

●

Nebraska City Coin Show
February 8, 2015
Info: Tim Boerner
402-269-2228
mmmt8526@hotmail.com
See flier on page 28

●

Lincoln Coin Club Annual Coin Show
March 14, 2015
Info: Dave Larson
402-202-2348
See flier on page 21

●

2015 NNA Show and Convention
June 6th & 7th
South Sioux City, NE
See flier on page 16

●

Omaha Coin Club
56th Annual Show
August 1st, 2015

In Memoriam

Lawrence E. Rowe

Lawrence E. "Larry" Rowe, 80, of Vancouver, Washington, died on October 4, 2014. Born in Chicago, Illinois, Rowe worked for the Burlington Northern Railroad for 40 years.

Rowe was a member of the Lincoln Coin Club, Wahoo Coin Club and the Nebraska Numismatic Association.

Through the years he received many numismatic honors including; The Glenn Smedley Memorial Award 2001, the Medal of Merit 2002, the CSNS Medal of Merit, and was named a Numismatic Ambassador by Numismatic News.

Rowe is survived by his wife, Katherine, two sons, Kenneth and Kevin; and two brothers, Richard and Carl.

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invites you to join their 2,300 members and to support the mid west's respected regional numismatic organization. Founded in 1939, CSNS has been serving numismatics and promoting the education of collectors for 70 years!

For membership questions,
contact Secretary Jerry Lebo,
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Logansport, IN 46947
email: jclebo@verizon.net

For questions about The Centinel,
contact Gerald Tebben, Editor
P.O. Box 82125
Columbus, OH 43202
email: gtebben@columbus.rr.com

Nebraska Numismatic Association

Club Directory - Meeting times and locations

Fremont - Fremont Coin Club, 3rd Saturday, The Evangelical Free Church Social Hall, 20th & Lincoln Streets, 7:30 pm.

Grand Island - Grand Island Coin Club, No longer meeting

Kearney - Rumor has it that Kearney has a new coin club. The Journal is awaiting confirmation and club name and location

Lincoln - Lincoln Coin Club, 2nd Thursday, Holmes Lake Apartments Clubhouse, 7100 Holmes Park Dr. 7:30 pm.

Lincoln - Lincoln Numismatic Society, 1st Thursday, New Victorian Inn, 48th & O St., Lincoln, NE 7:30 pm.

Nebraska City - Nebraska City Coin Club, 4th Tuesday, @ the Burger King S 77 Hwy, 7:00 pm

North Platte - The North Platte Coin Club meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the North Platte Senior Center, 900 East 10th, North Platte For information contact: Loren Shimmin (308) 532-9622

Omaha - Omaha Coin Club, 3rd Friday, Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office, 8015 West Center Road. 7:30 pm. YN's 7:00 pm.

Omaha - SAC/Midwest Coin Club, 1st Tuesday, Denny's Restaurant, 84th & I-80, 7:00 pm.

South Sioux City - Siouxland Coin Club, write for information, 901 S. Cecelia, Sioux City, Iowa, 51106

Seward - Nebraska Token Collectors Club, 2nd Sunday, Cattle National Bank, 2:00 pm.

Wahoo - Wahoo Coin Club, 1st Saturday, Saunders County Historical Museum, 240 N. Walnut, 7:30 pm.

→Not responsible for incorrect information caused by cacography ←

If you have corrections or addtions please submit them in writing to:
Mitch Ernst / NNA Journal editor • P.O. Box 24913 • Omaha, NE 68124
email: NNA_Journal@msn.com

HOT DEALS!

Omaha Coin Club's 56th Annual

Coin Show

Saturday August 1st, 2015

9am - 5pm

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-Hourly Raffle

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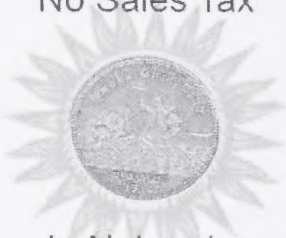

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Address Correction and Forwarding Requested

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Don't miss the Homestead quarter
Launch Feb 10th. Details inside!!